



Australian  
Institute of  
Architects

SONA

# upscale\_

Renew2020  
#SONAupscale

## Renew [verb]

Resume [an activity] after an interruption.

Give fresh life or strength to.

The social and environmental changes that Australia has faced over the last few months have created interruptions to all aspects of our lives. As students of the built environment it can be difficult to comprehend positivity for our future post disruptive interruptions that have a direct impact to the communities of which we live, work and learn in. Climate change, natural disasters and a global pandemic are examples of such interruptions. We believe that a state of renewal is a way of thinking that can allow us to see positivity during and after these interruptions.

Upscale will allow students to work together to find ways to renew; to resume after an interruption or give fresh life to their communities that have been disrupted during these times. The interruption that Upscale will respond to is specifically the COVID-19 pandemic.

## LOCAL BRIEF

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified pre-existing issues of an unhealthy work-life balance in many professions. As a result of transitioning to an online platform of working, teaching and learning, the boundaries between our workstation and sofas have been blurred, effectively worsening an already unhealthy lifestyle. This habitual behaviour, occurring before and during the pandemic, is detrimental to our mental health and wellbeing, and the response to the brief must find a way to acknowledge this issue. Moving forward with the brief, the condition post-COVID-19 must be considered, and the concept of “renew” should account for a reinvigorated work culture among both students of the built environment and school teachers, unlike the detrimental practices of life pre-pandemic.

### 1. The ‘Client’ Collective

The ‘client’ is a collective of two community groups.

- Students of the built environment who have transitioned to an online mode of learning and are studying at home.
- School teachers who have transitioned to an online mode of teaching from their homes.

### 2. The ‘Client’ Collective Aims

The aim of the design collective is to mediate a space/mechanism which provides the client with an outlet from work, facilitating/promoting a healthy work-life balance in an environment where it is difficult to separate the two. The clients: students of the built environment, and school teachers within the professional workforce, both are related in that they share the same unhealthy work life - bringing work to their homes, and effectively blurring the lines between personal “down-time” and work.

### 3. Design Brief

The built form should explore the idea of how boundaries are created and defined and how we determine what tasks should be performed in which locations, effectively providing a response to the issues of an unhealthy work life balance prevalent in the professions of teachers and architects. This design should strive to form a barrier/outlet, so as to clearly define the divide between work and home, and assist in reducing potential stresses (physical or mental) that work and study would impose on the user. This design should help at the individual scale, creating an environment of comfort, psychological well being, and have a practical use which integrates seamlessly with the function of a living space.

Ways you could Approach the brief:

- **Psychological:** How your design can reconnect the client with family and friends, and at the same time disconnect with work and the associated stress and anxiety it may produce. Encouraging mindfulness of the individual.
- **Practical:** Considering how your design can assist with workflow. This should be a tool that can be easily implemented.
- **Comfort / ergonomics:** Looking at how increasing comfort can encourage efficiency.

#### 4. Site and Scale

The final built form at 1:1 must fit through a standard size door frame (2040x820mm).

The chosen site is your personal living space, and the built form must be able to fit within these bounds. Consider how this proposal would integrate and interact with the existing uses and users of the space. The design should take into account potential safety and well-being hazards within the situated environment and consider the inhabitants within the household space. The design should not impede on the function of the space and must still allow for ordinary use and activity within the living area.

#### 5. Material

The primary material for Upscale 2020 is TIMBER. The proposals should seek to explore the creative use of a single material, only introducing a secondary material where structurally or experientially necessary (e.g. paint, vegetation, L-brackets, etc). Participants are encouraged to get creative with the wide range of timber based products that are available. Timber framing members, battens, plywood sheets, softwoods, hardwoods, IKEA cabinets or even sticks from the garden are all considered acceptable.

If you are looking for a starting point, search 'timber' on the Bunnings Warehouse website, and see the 4,679 results that show up.

Estimates should be calculated by using online prices per unit, lineal meter or m<sup>2</sup> of material. Participants need to keep a record of any prices of the materials they are proposing (a simple word document with web links will suffice).

#### 6. Feasibility and Installation

As a total build, you will have a fixed budget of **\$800**. Your proposal must be built considering the following costs: raw material, transport and fabrication. It will be helpful to utilise the resources provided by the universities (ie. workshops, material supply, tools etc) to reduce the cost of fabrication.

#### 7. Submission Information

Submission should be uploaded pdf/powerpoint, how you express your proposal is flexible - mediums including sketches, drawings, renders, and scale models are encouraged. Students present their idea via Zoom with their submission as a presentation. Presentations should be approximately 5 mins. 3 mins presentation with 2 mins Q & A.

Submissions should include a reasonable estimate of the cost of materials to build the design. Estimates should be calculated by using online prices per lineal meter or m<sup>2</sup> of material with references to websites/quoted prices. A list of links to where these prices were obtained must also be included in the submission (a simple word document would suffice).

Submissions must also include:

- 100 word description that clearly explains your concept
- 2 x hero images that represent your proposal at 1080px x 1080px

#### 8. Assessment Criteria

- **Buildability:** The construction approach should be feasible for assembly in a workshop; and thus should not implement any intense or complicated methods or construction. The transport and assembly method should be considered, and the final design must be able to fit inside a standard door frame for installation.
- **Feasibility:** The design should fall within a \$800 budget using materials that can be realistically sourced.
- **Sustainability:** Credit will be given to designs that explore the possibility of being recycled, deconstructed and re-erected elsewhere, reimagined or repurposed etc.
- **Collective Design:** The design process and outcome should show efforts of collective design with the community representatives, peers and mentors. The design should meet the needs of the selected community group(s) in an insightful way that adds value to their situation.
- **Thematic Response [Renew]:** The design should insightfully respond to the overarching theme renew; to resume after an interruption or give fresh life to the communities that have been disrupted during these times.



## 9. Prizes

- **Build:** The most successful (1<sup>st</sup> place) will receive both the below prizes as well as have their design built 1:1 and be displayed in a suitable location.
- **Recognition:** The three most successful design proposals will all receive recognition utilising the SONA and National Institute media platforms. The recognition will showcase the students works and their names, giving students the opportunity to be recognised across the entire professional network.
- **Free SONA Memberships:** All students of the three most successful design proposals will also receive complementary SONA memberships for the following year.